

GAE Comittee,

To the members of the GAE Committee,

I am writing to you to express my support for passing both S.B. 184 and H.B. 5262.

I believe voters should be able to vote this year by absentee ballot as COVID19 persists. Please continue the COVID19 safety measures of 2020 and 2021 for 2022 and allow for everyone who fears exposure to COVID19 to vote by absentee ballot.

More than 650,000 Connecticut voters voted by absentee ballot in the 2020 CT General Election—which means they voted early on their own schedules. This led to record breaking 80% voter turnout. Listen to the voters, the choice is clear. Please protect the freedom to vote and pass S.B. 184 and H.B. 5262.

I am struck that so many who speak against these bills refer only to their own personal ability to vote with ease. Those who support are concerned with the community of voters as a whole. Please stand with the latter.

Beyond that, while many people look disapprovingly at changes in southern states that appear to limit access to voting, here in CT we live under very old and very restrictive rules - more restrictive than even Georgia WITH the proposed changes.

In Australia, one is required to vote! Just look to their example to understand that voting itself is a non-partisan issue - their Prime Minister is as conservative as our last president.

Please bring CT to the 21st century and let the people vote freely. Only those not confident in their ability to win would say otherwise.

Thank you for your time.

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